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Syracuse, Oct. 31, 1865

Dear Mrs Chapman:

I have just arrived here on my way to the West, and lose no time in doing what I tried to get time to do in person before leaving Boston — namely, to thank you, with an overflowing heart, and also your good son Henry, for your joint contribution of the generous sum of two hundred dollars in aid of the Liberator, and as a token of personal regard. Your own kindness has been repeatedly shown in this manner, and therefore my indebtedness to you is of an accumulative nature. In other ways, by words of counsel and of cheer, how much I have been indebted to you, during a period of twenty-six years, I should find it difficult to express. Your friendship has been proved through every scene of adversity and trial, of combat and danger, and from it I have derived strength and inspiration. Be assured of my perpetual gratitude, even if I do not indulge in a multiplicity of words in thanking you.

In making your joint donation, I am sure it will be peculiarly gratifying to you and Henry to know that it could not have come at a more opportune period; for the increasing expenses of printing the Liberator for the past and present year, — much outrunning its enhanced subscription-price, — have largely exceeded its receipts; so that it has nothing to fall back upon, to complete the present volume, and therefore it is that I am absent from my post, when I am most desirous of being at it, in order to procure the means to enable me to print the additional numbers to the end of the year. I shall not regret that thirty-five years of editorial labor in the cause of the oppressed will leave me without a farthing derived from the subscription list of the Liberator.

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But at no time, however severe the pinch or dark the hour, have I seen even a temporary failure of the prediction, "Trust in the Lord, and do good, and verily thou shalt be fed." Most wonderfully have my needs been supplied, when I knew not where to turn, or how to continue the publication of the Liberator; all the more so as I have never asked a human being for assistance to enable me to prosecute my anti-slavery labors, or for any other purpose. Surely, I have been led in a way that I knew not, and the mercies of God have never failed me. I have been kept from destitution, my dear wife and children have had what they needed for their comfort, and troops of kind and generous friends have volunteered to assist to the end of the conflict. Every thing we now have is of their giving, (all of it as unexpected as it has been impromptu,) and nothing derived from the income of the paper.

You will pardon this reference to the manner in which I have been led and sustained. It is to you, my dear and faithful friend, and to such as you, that I owe, under a gracious Providence, the continuance of my labors to "undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free." Now it is given to us to rejoice together in the fruition of our hopes and the fulfilment of our desires. It is not a triumph of persons but of principles, and we rejoice and give thanks, not as partisans or victors, but for our dear country's sake, and the cause of freedom and humanity throughout the world.

Whatever remains to be done to complete the sublime victory which has been achieved, and to secure to the freed people all that justice demands, I am sure we shall aim to do, "in the spirit of love and a sound mind."

Mrs Maria W. Chapman.

Your grateful and attached friend
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

P.S. Please remember me affectionately and gratefully to Mary, and to all at Weymouth. Will you increase my obligations by writing something for the Liberator while I am absent?

My son Wendell is to be married on the 7th of December and Fanny probably about the 7th of January.— December 10th will complete my 60th year.